

**Facing God**  
Rabbi Nelly Altenburger

## **To Praise, to Labor, and to Love**

*Adam Finkelstein  
President*



Dear Friends,

One of my teachers used to say that she never sat with her close friends during services. When asked why, she'd smile and explain: "Because then God doesn't stand a chance." She wasn't being antisocial at all. She understood something profound about the gift of Jewish community and the different spaces where connection happens.

We are blessed with a vibrant, warm community. The friendships formed here sustain us through our hard times, the jokes and laughter nourish our good moments, and the conversations over the table weave us together. Everyone is included by everyone. This is another side of the sacred work of the community: our deep social bonds.

But prayer itself? Prayer asks something different of us. While during Shabbat kiddush and Breakfast Bunch on Mondays we make a horizontal connection, prayer is

*(Rabbi Continued on page 5)*

## **WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!**

If you or anyone you know is ill or in need of support, please contact our Bikur Cholim (Compassionate Care) Committee. Contact Michelle Grossman, [rickandmichelle360@gmail.com](mailto:rickandmichelle360@gmail.com); Rabbi Nelly, [rabbi@adathisraelct.org](mailto:rabbi@adathisraelct.org); or Joanna at the office.

It was just about five years ago that I was coming to pick up my daughter at Hebrew School. I'd already declined an invitation to be on the board, but on this late Sunday morning I was cornered by both the current and future president. While they would both later become dear friends, we barely knew each other at this point.

On this Sunday they were teaming up, and they were recruiting. They weren't just looking to fill a board seat either, now they needed a vice-president. My first reaction was to laugh and list all the reasons why I wasn't qualified. The bottom line was that I wasn't nearly devout enough to be the eventual president of a synagogue.

"That's why you're perfect."

That was the response that got me, because it illustrated there were others, maybe numerous others, like me.

This is a story I've told before, but I wanted to share the abridged version again, because this next, more recent, story is one that I hope might connect with those that I was once viewed as perfect for. Those who care deeply about being Jewish, but can, at times, struggle to connect with each word or prayer that we recite during services.

Recently, the subject of success has been a topic of conversation within my household.

How do you define it? How do you best pursue it? How do you maintain a healthy relationship with that pursuit?

*(President Continued on page 3)*

# Tu B'Shevat L'Chol Adat

*for everyone!*

**Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>  
at 9:30 AM**

(President Continued from page 1)

Like many moments of parenthood, I was humbled to realize that I didn't immediately have a good answer. So, I gave it some thought.

I thought of one of my favorite podcasts, the "Tim Ferris Show," where the host often asks his guests, who are typically world-class performers in their respective fields, who the most successful person they know is. There are always a wide variety of different types of answers, illustrating that success is a deeply personal word.

I thought of the recent Tom Brady interview where the former football player that many consider to be the greatest that ever played, says (and I'm paraphrasing) that he hopes his kids find something that they are similarly passionate about, but learn to have better balance than he did.

There were lots of other thoughts mixed in between. Ultimately though, the best answer I could come up with, and one that I'm very comfortable with, came from our Prayer for Peace.

"We have come into being to praise, to labor, and to love."

Now, this, I thought. This not only provides a noble blueprint, but it also makes space for each individual to apply it to their own lives in very personal ways.

So, now, when we talk about success in our house, I point to this Jewish teaching. Success means different things to different people, but if we're striving to put positive energy into the world, working hard, and loving fully, then we're on the right track.

Five years after agreeing to the track that ultimately resulted in me being the president for the last three, I will admit there have been numerous moments since when I felt like an imposter. Surely, I've thought on multiple occasions, someone who couldn't functionally serve on the ritual committee should not be president.

Maybe though the definition of faith is as personal as the definition of success. As much admiration as I have for the people who can deeply connect to the words of the prayer book on a daily basis, for me it's the customs, traditions, some foundational prayers, and a few very meaningful lines that most naturally resonate with me.

Regardless of what it is for you, I hope you find it. More importantly though, I hope you keep looking for it, because there are some true pearls of ancient wisdom within our faith and community. Sometimes it can be as little as 12 words.

**"WE HAVE COME  
INTO BEING TO  
PRAISE, TO LABOR,  
AND TO LOVE."**



### **Tikkun Olam/Fundraiser**



Save time, aggravation, and the planet while providing funds for important causes by donating your cleaned redeemable bottles & cans.

**January-March funds raised will benefit the Religious School.**

Please drop your **CLEANED** cans & bottles off in the designated bucket in front of the synagogue office.



# EARLY RISERS MINYAN

KIDDUSH  
BREAKFAST  
FOLLOWING  
SERVICE

**FEBRUARY 4<sup>TH</sup> \* 7:00 AM**

(Rabbi Continued from page 1)

asking us for a vertical connection. Judaism thrives on both, and asks us to neglect neither.

You may have noticed that during central prayers, the prayer leader (in Hebrew *shaliach tzibur*, literally the one whom the congregation sends) faces the ark and not the congregation. This practice has deep roots, connecting us with Jewish practices from time immemorial. The Shulchan Aruch (Orach Chayim 95:1) teaches that we direct our prayers toward Jerusalem, toward the place of the Temple, toward the symbolic seat of the Divine presence. The Mishnah Berurah adds that the prayer leader, like every other person standing in prayer, must face that direction because the *shaliach tzibur* is not performing FOR the congregation; the *shaliach tzibur* is praying WITH the congregation, as one of us.

And here's something beautiful: our ark itself faces Jerusalem. When we face the ark, we're actually orienting ourselves toward two spiritual centers at once: the Torah scrolls housed in our own sacred space, and through them, toward Jerusalem. In this spiritual geography we see many layers of holiness nested within each other, like a *Matryoska*, a Russian nesting doll. The local and the universal, the present and the past, the scroll we read from on Shabbat and the ancient stones halfway across the world, our people here and our people in Jerusalem. All present, all calling to us.

This is the heart of it: the prayer leader is also praying, also reaching toward God, also whispering the words of the Amidah, also standing vulnerable and open before the Holy One of Blessing. When we lead services or parts of the services, we are not entertainers or spiritual concierges. We are fellow travelers on this journey, all connected and directed toward the mystery and majesty of the Divine.

There's a beautiful teaching that the prayer leader is called to "go down before the ark" (*yoreid lifnei hateivah*): this is suggesting a posture of humility, of descent, of standing in the low place where prayer begins. This is a vertical connection. We cannot do this while primarily oriented toward other people – because then we are in a horizontal connection, with those similar to us, family, friends, companions in our spiritual journey. My teacher was right: when we're facing our friends, caught up in social connection, God doesn't stand a chance of breaking through.

So yes — please, find me at kiddush. Let's sit together, please tell me a story or talk about the movies you have watched, or your opinions about politics. I am all yours then. Let's laugh together over kugel and debate how well the Crown bagels are cut this week. That's when I'm fully present for you, when I can give you my undivided attention, when we can strengthen the bonds of community that make us who we are.



But during those moments of prayer? Know that I'm standing beside you, not performing for you. Turned with you toward the ark, toward Jerusalem, toward something infinitely greater than both of us. Together we reach. Together we hope. Together we stand.

And if prayers are not your thing? Just come for kiddush. I'm there with you.

Warmly,  
Rabbi Nelly

## Repairing the World One Dinner at a Time!

December 14th, the first night of Chanukah, members of our Tikkun Olam Committee and Zion Lutheran Church in Portland provided and served dinner at St. Vincent de Paul's soup kitchen in Middletown as part of the Sunday Meals Program. It was a true partnership with each community supplying, preparing, and serving part of the meal.

Chanukah means rededication; we can think of no better way to rededicate ourselves to the mitzvah of *V'ahavta l'rei•a'kha kamokha*/You shall love your neighbor as yourself (Leviticus 19:18) than by working with our interfaith partners to ensure all our neighbors have a warm meal. Many thanks to our sponsors, shoppers, cooks, and servers: Andy Bauer, Eileen & Michael Daling, Ben Eisner, Suzanne Goldberg, Patty Netherland, Joanna Schnurman and Barbara Sequenzia.

Our next meal will be February 1st. We are so excited that the religious school will be preparing the salad as part of their Tu B'Shevat L'chol Adat (Tu B'shevat for Everyone) program. Sponsors are still needed for this meal. Please contact the office if you can help.



December 14th servers (L →R): Pastor Sara Stall-Ryan, Cathy Richards, and Diana Huntington from Zion Lutheran; Patty Netherland, Barbara Sequenzia, and Ben Eisner from Adath Israel; and Jay Huntington from Zion Lutheran.

# Holocaust Survivor Speaks: Escape From Vienna



**Adath Israel**  
Celebrate Jewish Life

Heidi Palmer speaks publicly for the first time about her experiences fleeing Europe and settling in America. Most of her family left Vienna for Sweden right before the Anschluss, and was able to get into the United States without papers in 1940. Her father crossed the Atlantic to join the family in the midst of World War II, a very perilous undertaking. The family settled in Larchmont, New York, where at the time there were no Jews. Many of her family members were killed in the Holocaust, and her grandmother was the only one of 11 siblings to survive.

**Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 11am**

at Congregation Adath Israel

Please RSVP to [office@adathisraelct.org](mailto:office@adathisraelct.org) or 860-346-4709 by 2/1



## Community News

*Honor Edmands  
Education &  
Community Life  
Director*

Shalom! This month I would like to shine a light on someone who has been vitally important to Adath Israel since joining

over 45 years ago. Eileen Daling has been part of almost every aspect of synagogue life; from working in the office as the community's initial touchpoint for communication, life cycle events, and general operations, to being the President of the Board, to running our Mah Jongg group that meets each Tuesday, to volunteering at our Interfaith Golf Tournament every year.

In addition to these many incredible contributions, for the past 10 years she has managed all of the synagogue's online communication, including emails, flyers, our website & more. Life at Adath Israel truly would not be what it is today without her tireless work & guidance. When I arrived here last summer, Eileen was one of the first people that I met. We connected over a shared gluten-free journey (she shared her spreadsheet of all the best products & where to find them with me!), and I had the chance to learn about everything she has done for the congregation.

A lot of Eileen's work was behind-the-scenes, visible to most people only as a helpful website page, timely email update, or a flyer advertising the next synagogue event. In reality, it is so much more than

that! Coordinating all of our different groups and monthly happenings, ensuring that everything was ready for each Kolot issue, and planning an entire year ahead of time so we always know what is needed by when. Thank you, Eileen, for everything that you have done and continue to do for us. I know I have big shoes to fill. I am so grateful for the years of care & love that you have put into keeping our members informed, and that every time you find a new delicious gluten-free treat you tell me all about it!

*thank  
you*

# CHANUKAH THANK YOU!

December 17th of 2025 our congregation came together to celebrate the fourth night of Hanukkah with our Community Candle Lighting and Latke Bar. The event had over 100 attendees, including interfaith visitors from the local Catholic, Congregationalist, and Baha'i communities as well as Mayor Nocera and State Senator Matt Lesser. A wonderful time was had, with delicious food, beautiful lighting of the candles, games, and a meaningful display of the resilience of our light in the world, especially in consideration of recent events. None of this would have been possible without the dedicated help of volunteers. Please join me in giving a special thanks to Adam Finkelstein (and his kids), Rebekah Doweyko (and her daughter Brady), Loretta Rubin, Barbara Fenig, Richard Kamins, Andy Bauer, and Phil Saxe, as well as Honor Edmands, Joanna Schnurman, Rabbi Nelly, and Julio Ramos for making the celebration such a success.

-Ethan Warner



★ FEBRUARY 9 ★  
at Perk on Main

Join us for breakfast following morning minyan.  
Please note: While the great conversation is free,  
participants are responsible for what they order.



## Thaw Out With A Good Book

As many of you realize by now, books and reading are among my favorite things. What I love most are all the different ways reading connects you to other people. For example:

- When someone reads a book and loves it so much that they tell you to read it.
- After reading that book, circling back to that person to share your thoughts about it.
- Recommending a book to a friend and hearing that they loved it too.
- Reading to children.
- Listening to children read aloud.
- Having discussions about books.
- Always having something to talk about with people you've just met. "What are you reading?"
- Learning about how people from different walks of life think and live.
- Finding the perfect book as a gift for someone.
- **Being part of a book club and hearing participants' reflections on the book.**

Here are the upcoming books selected by our Book Club. Come join us!

**February 3 – Boy From The North Country** by Sam Sussman

**March 17 – Queen Esther** by John Irving

The Book Club meetings are held at The Nester Center at 7 p.m. as well as via Zoom. We use a hybrid model so that more people can participate. All are welcome to attend.

**Meeting ID: 886 4652 0065**

**Passcode: 196174**

Happy Reading!  
ROBERTA



Roberta Levine Glass, [rjlevine610@gmail.com](mailto:rjlevine610@gmail.com), 302-593-7581 (cell)



Jo-Ann & Michael Price  
Loretta & Julius Rubin



Hinda Niemeyer	Eliot Meadow
Felix Hibino	Henry Winkler
Nancy Shapiro	Dewey Deeton
Cynthia Kaplan	Harriet Deeton
Parker Cohen-Glyck	Juliana Simon
Linda Caplan	Nathan Shapiro-Rosado
Nathan Aiudi	Julie Weiss
Phyllis Frydenberg	Mark Paley
Honor Edmands	Tod Olczak
Sara Paley	Naomi Kamins
Patty Netherland	Marion Irizarry
Andrea Fassler	Loretta Rubin
Barbara Weiss	Robert Massicott
Christine Baskin	Mila Zaplin
Susan Schmeiser	Michael Zaplin

## HONOR THOSE SPECIAL EVENTS IN YOUR LIFE WITH A PLAQUE ON THE SIMCHA MENORAH

Whether celebrating a wedding, birth, b'nei mitzvah, "special" birthday, or anniversary, share your joy with our synagogue community – **FOREVER**.  
Only \$136.00 – A gift that endures

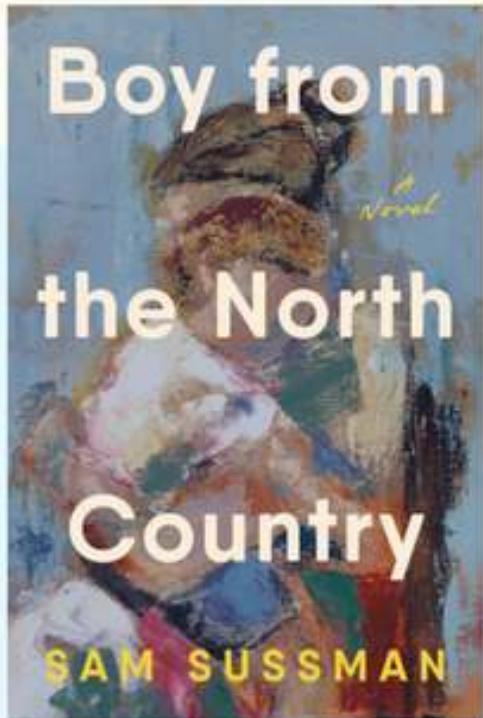
Please contact the office to order.



Join us!  
New members welcome

# BOOK CLUB

*Boy from the North Country* by Sam Sussman



**FEBRUARY 3<sup>RD</sup>**  
**7:00 PM**

*In-person at the Nester Center & on Zoom*

Adath Israel Book Club is free & open to anyone who desires great discussions about fascinating books on Jewish topics

#### Zoom Info:

Meeting ID: 886 4652 0065  
Passcode: 196174

For more information please contact **Roberta Glass:**  
[rjlevine610@gmail.com](mailto:rjlevine610@gmail.com)  
302-593-7581



## Jewish Camp/Israel Trip Scholarships

The Congregation is blessed with two scholarship funds which provide support for children of members in good standing wishing to send their children to Jewish summer camps or to experience Israel.

**Applications for the Maxine Thumim Camp Scholarship and the Dr. Arthur & Gladys Weiss Scholarship are available from the Synagogue office.**

**Completed applications should be returned to the office by April 15, 2026.**

## ADATH ISRAEL ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

The Scholarship Committee of Adath Israel is pleased to announce that the Application Forms and Rules and Regulation Guidelines for the Annual Adath Israel Post Secondary School Scholarships are available from the synagogue office.

Students who are seniors in high school through graduate school, and whose family meets the membership requirements are encouraged to apply.

All questions concerning the application process should be directed to **Fred Zierler**, Committee Chair at (203) 631-9567 or via email, fzierler@gmail.com.

Completed applications should be returned to the synagogue office by May 8, 2026.

**FREE PROGRAM!**  
Scan QR Code for More Info

February - 2026

**Mazel Tots**

**About our Program**

- Free!!
- "Parent/Guardian and Me" style
- Designed for children < 6 yrs
- Sundays 10:30am - 12:00pm
- Snacks Provided

**Classes**

- ▶ 2/1 - Tu B'Shevat for All
- ▶ 2/8 - Tu B'shevat Kids Seder
- ▶ 2/15 - NO CLASS
- ▶ 2/22 - Purim Mitzvot

games    crafts    music

**Adath Israel**

Location: Central Middletown, CT 06457  
www.adathisraelct.org  
Contact: 860-346-4709, mazel tots adath@gmail.com

NOT SURE  
**WHERE TO PARK?**

### Adath Israel Parking Lots

Across from Charles IT  
150 William St.

Behind the  
Nester Center  
16 Broad St.

Adath Israel  
8 Broad St.

Park Here

DO NOT  
Park Here



Image credit Google Maps

\*When parking behind the Nester Center be sure to only park in spaces outlined in yellow.



A  
Taste  
of  
Asia

# PRAY EAT SING

Friday, February 20th  
6:00 pm



Free to members!  
Others: \$10 per person, \$18 per family

RSVP by Feb 13 to  
[office@adathisraelct.org](mailto:office@adathisraelct.org)

Sponsored by Josephine Trotta Poliner in loving memory of Myron Poliner

## IT'S NEWS


**B'RUCHIM HABAIM! WELCOME!**  
**Jemma, Stephen, and Nate Siperstein**
**MAZAL TOV!**

**Paula & Rob Goldstein** on the engagement of their daughter, Samantha.

**Ruth & Mike Sigal** on becoming grandparents!  
 Eloise Margot Kolodny was welcomed into the world on Dec. 12.

**Acts of Kindness**

**Meals & Shopping:** Phil Saxe, Harriet, Aaron, and Marcey Thiela, Paula Goldstein

**Picking up food at the Crown:** Fred Zierler, Rabbi Nelly

**Proofreading:** Naomi Kamins, Phil Saxe

**Helping with mailings:** Anita Hennessey, Eileen Daling

**Washing linens from the kitchen:** Joanna Schnurman

**Returning bottles:** Eileen & Mike Daling



**“Where there is no food there is no Torah”**

**Early Risers Minyan Sponsors & Helpers**

Scott Levy, Paula Goldstein, and Phil Saxe

**Pray-Eat-Sing Sponsors & Helpers**

Aaron Thiela, Marcey Thiela, Harriet Thiela, Phil Saxe; Anita Hennessey, Naomi & Richard Kamins, Andy Bauer, Laurie & Rabbi Marshal Press, Paula & Rob Goldstein Josephine Trotta Poliner in loving memory of Myron Poliner

**Oneg, Kiddush, or Refreshments Sponsors****IN MEMORY OF**

Bernard M. Schwarz by Gail Schwarz Aronow

**SPEEDY RECOVERY**

We'd like to wish a "Refua Shleima" to the following: Katrina Axelrod, Bob Baskin, Phyllis Frydenberg, Suzanne Goldberg, Paula Goldstein, Shari Lynn Kochman, Jean Lawrence, David Schwarz, Stephen Shapiro

**IN MEMORIAM**

**May God grant comfort to**  
 Alex Margolis on the passing of his grandmother

**Our heartfelt condolences to the families of**  
 Ines Gerstenblatt z"l who came to her eternal rest on December 17 (27 Kislev)

Dr. Robert Zavod z"l who came to his eternal rest on December 26 (6 Tevet)

Robin Savitsky Levine z"l who came to her eternal rest on January 21 (3 shevat)


**IF YOU OR A LOVED ONE IS IN THE HOSPITAL OR OTHER HEALTH CARE FACILITY**

Patient privacy laws prohibit the hospitals & other healthcare facilities from notifying Adath Israel if you are admitted unless you specifically request it. Upon admission, please list Judaism as your religion and request spiritual care or a visit from the chaplain. The hospital chaplain will contact the synagogue. If you do not wish to go through the hospital, please contact the synagogue directly if you or a loved one would like a pastoral visit.

**Member Resources**

- The following resources are available to members:
  - 2025-26 Member Directory
  - 2025-26 Life of the Congregation & Synagogue
  - Leadership
  - By-Laws of the Congregation •Chevra
  - Kadisha Rules & Regulations
- Please contact the office to receive your copy.

# ADATH ISRAEL HOSTS... DRAG PURIM

A PURIM STORY HOUR LIKE NO OTHER!

IN THE SPIRIT OF PURIM, WE CELEBRATE THE COURAGE  
OF QUEEN ESTHER, WITH A STORYTELLER JUST AS BOLD.

JOIN ADATH ISRAEL AND SPECIAL GUEST

## FLAMINIA FAGIOLINA

MARCH 1ST  
1 PM

**Tickets on sale now!**



Adath Israel  
Celebrate Jewish Life



### A Purim Story Hour Like No Other!

Join us at Adath Israel on Sunday, March 1st at 1pm for Drag Purim! A local Jewish Drag Queen, Flaminia Fagiolina, will be performing her rendition of the Purim story. The event will feature a fabulous brunch, stories & songs, a costume contest, and more!

To purchase tickets, please scan the QR code above, or contact the synagogue office via telephone or email. Thank you to our sponsor Urban Dor for their support of this event.

## ADATH ISRAEL DEDICATED FUNDS

**ADATH ISRAEL SCHOLARSHIP FUND** (SOPHIE & JULIUS BARKER, EVELYN & ABRAHAM GROSSMAN, SARAH ZIETZ PIERSON, RABBI ALBERT & ROSALYN TROY, SYLVIA GROSS WASSERMAN, MAX CHEIKIN, BERNIE SEIDON, AND JEAN STERN ARON SCHOLARSHIPS)

*Provides scholarships to children of Adath Israel members attending an accredited college, university or school of higher learning*

### **DR. ARTHUR & GLADYS WEISS SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

*Provides scholarships to children of Adath Israel members attending Jewish camp, Jewish content special programs, and trips to Israel*

### **BEIT-PALEY FUND**

*Supports Torah repair*

### **CHEVRA KADISHA**

*Supports maintenance and enhancement of the cemetery*

### **ARTHUR & EDYTHE DIRECTOR FAMILY FUND**

*Supports music in the ritual, educational, and cultural gatherings at Adath Israel*

### **ETERNAL LIGHT FUND**

*Supports the general operation of Adath Israel*

### **HOWARD FELDMAN BEAUTIFICATION FUND**

*Supports the beautification of our synagogue building and grounds and the Nester Center*

**IN HONOR OF**

Paula & Rob Goldstein in celebration of the engagement of their daughter, Samantha by Marge & Stan Sadinsky

### **LYNN BENNETT RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

*Supports the upgrade of our religious school*

**IN HONOR OF**

Ruth & Mike Sigal on the birth of their granddaughter, Eloise Margot Kolodny by Myra Finkelstein

**IN MEMORY OF**

Jacob Firestone by Joy & Alan Firestone

### **MAXINE THUMIM CAMP SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

*Provides scholarships to children of Adath Israel members attending Jewish camp or travelling to Israel*

**IN HONOR OF**

Ariella Altenburger on becoming a Bat Mitzvah by Eileen & Michael Daling

Rabbi Marshal Press on being honored by the Rabbinical Assembly on the 50th anniversary of his ordination by Eileen & Michael Daling

Jean & Marc Nemeth on the recent wedding of their daughter, Haley by Eileen & Michael Daling

Ruth & Mike Sigal on the birth of their granddaughter, Eloise Margot Kolodny by Eileen & Michael Daling  
Stacey & Ethan Kolodny on the birth of their daughter, Eloise Margot Kolodny by Eileen & Michael Daling  
Paula & Rob Goldstein on the engagement of the daughter, Samantha by

Eileen & Michael Daling

Joanna Schnurman & Andy Bauer

Marc Glass celebrating his 80th birthday by Joanna Schnurman & Andy Bauer

### **MICHAEL FASSLER FUND**

*Supports early childhood education at Adath Israel*

### **MUSEUM FUND**

*Supports purchases and maintenance of Adath Israel's museum*

### **NATHAN OLSHIN SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE-FUND**

*Supports annual scholar-in-residence program*

### **RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

*Allows the rabbi to support individuals and causes in our community anonymously*

**IN HONOR OF**

Ariella Altenburger becoming a Bat Mitzvah by Barbara & Steven Weiss

### **SANFORD BEIT MINYAN FUND**

*Supports the creation and building of community over Kiddush*

### **SYNAGOGUE FUND**

*Supports the general operation of Adath Israel*  
Sondra & Roger Beit  
Luanne & Mark Paley

**IN HONOR OF**

Marc Glass celebrating his 80th birthday by Carol Glass  
Ruth & Mike Sigal on the birth of their granddaughter, Eloise Margot Kolodny by Joanna Schnurman & Andy Bauer

**IN MEMORY OF**

Esther Shoenberger by Joy & Alan Firestone  
Ines Gerstenblatt by Ruth Kahn

### **YAHRTZEIT FUND**

*Supports the general operation of Adath Israel*

William Waldman by Joy & Alan Firestone

Howard May by Irena May

Herman Sheftel by Berry & Cyndi Sheftel

Morris T. Levine by Robin & Marty Levine

Emanuel Saul Dubin by Joseph Dubin & Family

Edith Savitsky by Robin & Marty Levine

David L. Schwartz by Nancy L. Schwartz

Joseph Ravitch by Lee Ravitch Broder

Robert Maron by Ellen Gross

*(Yahrtzeit Funds Continued on page 17)*

# Grassroots Jewish Women of CT Artwork

 Adath Israel  
Celebrate Jewish Life  
[AdathIsraelCT.org](http://AdathIsraelCT.org)



## On Display at Adath Israel Now-2/4

The nonpartisan group formed after October 7th, and created this piece for the Under One Roof exhibit at the Mandel JCC of Greater Hartford. The canvas is rich with symbolism, from the red anemone which blooms every spring, to the interwoven olive branches which represent the connections that continue to grow through our immense strength. The background tiles were handcrafted by over 200 women within the group. We hope you will take this opportunity to share in their mission of resilience, hope and support of Israel.

**Adath Israel is proud to display this powerful work of art! Visit it in the small sanctuary any time the building is open.**

(*Yahrtzeit Funds Continued from page 15*)

Ruth Maron by Ellen Gross  
 Bruce Weiss by  
 Barbara & Steven Weiss  
 Alice "Ivy" Weiss  
 Francis Dubrow by Naomi & Michael Cohen  
 Barbara Shapiro by Ernest Shapiro  
 Ernie Shapiro by Ernest Shapiro  
 Joan Gordon by Sheryl Gordon Oken  
 Jack Gordon by Sheryl Gordon Oken  
 Murray Oken by Sheryl Gordon Oken  
 Harry Edelberg by Paul Edelberg  
 Gladys Bronstein Grower by Liz Grower Whittaker  
 Louis Hoffman by Ceile Zanoni  
 Max Seligman by Myrna Friedman  
 Frances Dubrow by Naomi Cohen  
 Mollie Katz by David Katz  
 Henry Silverman by Edie Simon  
 Robert Rovinsky by Richard Robbins  
 Ruth Edelberg by June Saltzberg  
 Edith Barker by Michael Barker  
 Philip Weiss by Barbara & Steven Weiss  
 Sylvia Mellman by Barbara & Steven Weiss  
 Marion Sigal by Mike, Ruth & Amy Sigal & Stacey  
 Sigal & Ethan Kolodny

## 5786 Annual Giving Campaign

We are incredibly grateful to our members and friends who have participated in this year's Annual Giving Campaign. Their support promotes the vitality of Adath Israel, allowing us to improve our facilities and enhance our cultural, educational, and spiritual offerings.

*Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.*

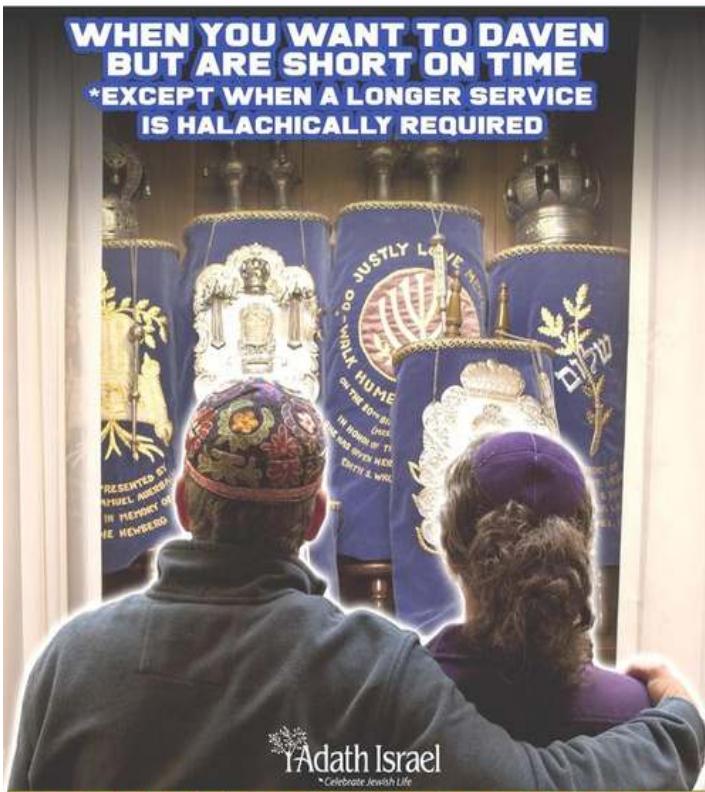
Linda Savitsky  
 Susan & Doug Miller  
 Jeffrey Kahn & Bobette Reed Kahn

THANK YOU

## EXPRESS MINYAN

EVERY WEDNESDAY 8:00AM\*

WHEN YOU WANT TO DAVEN  
 BUT ARE SHORT ON TIME  
 \*EXCEPT WHEN A LONGER SERVICE  
 IS HALACHICALLY REQUIRED



Adath Israel  
 \*Celebrate Jewish Life

Kolot Issue	Deadline
March	02/02
April	03/09
May	04/13
June (Summer)	05/04
September	08/03

### Office Hours

Monday: 8am - 1:30pm  
 Tuesday: 8am - 1:30pm  
 Wednesday: 9am - 5:30pm  
 Thursday: 8am - 1:30pm  
 Friday: 8am - 12pm

*The office is closed weekends, legal holidays, and Jewish holy days.*



Adults Only Megillah Reading

# PURIM

March 2<sup>nd</sup>  
6:30pm

Nester Center  
16 Broad St,  
Middletown

Wine, mocktails,  
hors d'oeuvres,  
hamantaschen!

**Suggested Donation \$18pp, Patron \$36pp**

**Costumes strongly encouraged!**

For more info please contact the synagogue at  
860-346-4709 or [office@adathisraelct.org](mailto:office@adathisraelct.org)

**\*A portion of each donation will go toward the mitzvah of  
*matanot l'evyonim*, giving support to those who need help.**

## **ADATH ISRAEL EMERGENCY CANCELLATION & CLOSING PROCEDURES**

### **RELIGIOUS SCHOOL:**

**THE DIRECTOR WILL CONTACT STAFF & STUDENTS' FAMILIES DIRECTLY & POST IT ON OUR WEBSITE.**

### **ALL OTHER CANCELLATIONS & CLOSINGS:**

**CHECK TV CHANNEL WFSB (EYEWITNESS3) OR [WWW.WFSB.COM](http://WWW.WFSB.COM).**

### **SHARE THE JOY WITH A SPONSORED ONEG OR KIDDUSH**

Share a family simcha, honor a friend or relative, or remember a loved one by sponsoring a Friday night Oneg Shabbat or a Shabbat Morning Kiddush. This is a delightful way to let others in our community celebrate a special occasion or share a memory with you. Our hope is that you would be present which will only add to the occasion.

The new Kiddush menus will be prepared and tastefully arranged by the Crown Supermarket in West Hartford. **Please call the synagogue office at 860-346-4709 at least a week in advance to make ordering and pick-up arrangements with the office administrator.**

The following is a breakdown of the new menus and costs for a Shabbat Morning Kiddush:

**Traditional Kiddush (up to 15 people): \$150  
(16-30 people): \$225**

Bagels, Tuna salad, Egg salad, cuke, tomato, & onion platter, lox spread, plain & chive cream cheese, fruit salad, pastry, cold & hot drinks

**Deluxe Kiddush (up to 15 people): \$225  
(16-30 people): \$350**

Bagels, tuna salad, egg salad, lox & sliced veggie platter, whitefish salad, plain & chive cream cheese, sesame noodles, kugel, fruit salad, pastry, cold & hot drinks

**Friday Night Oneg Shabbat (15 people): \$54**

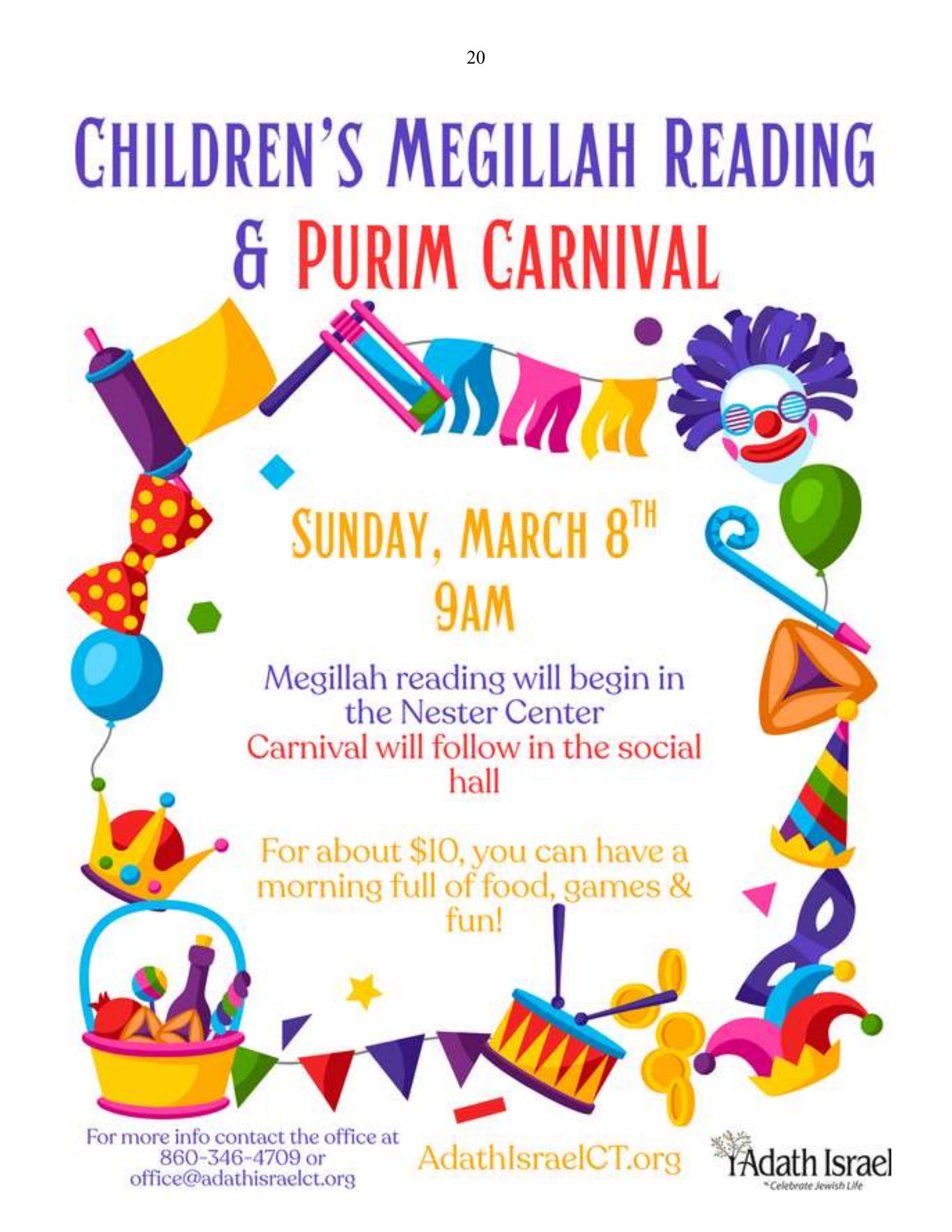
Pretzels, fruit, M&M's, pastry, cold & hot drinks

Prices for both a Kiddush and/or an Oneg Shabbat will be adjusted if there is a larger group in attendance for special life cycle events (Bar/Bat Mitzvah, baby naming, or wedding, etc.).

Of course, you can always purchase the food, bring it to the synagogue and do the set up yourself while also following the synagogue's Kashrut guidelines. Some assistance may be available on the day of your Kiddush.



# CHILDREN'S MEGILLAH READING & PURIM CARNIVAL



SUNDAY, MARCH 8<sup>TH</sup>  
9AM

Megillah reading will begin in  
the Nester Center  
Carnival will follow in the social  
hall

For about \$10, you can have a  
morning full of food, games &  
fun!

For more info contact the office at  
860-346-4709 or  
[office@adathisraelct.org](mailto:office@adathisraelct.org)

[AdathIsraelCT.org](http://AdathIsraelCT.org)

 Adath Israel  
Celebrate Jewish Life

**TORAH STUDY**



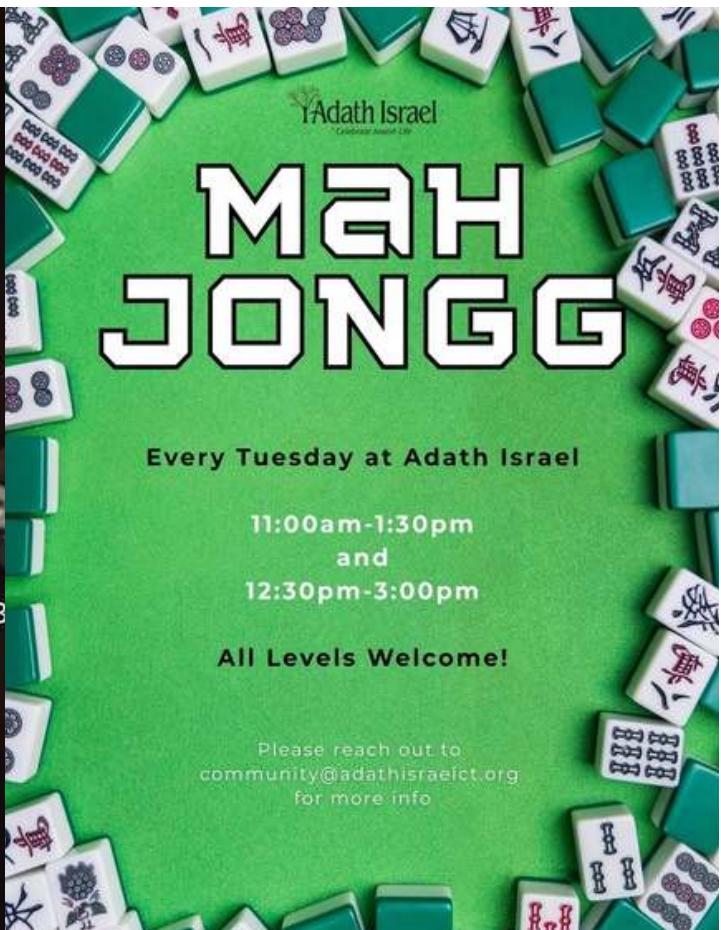
**Weekly on Zoom:**

**Wednesdays**  
10:30am-12:00pm  
Meeting ID: 837 9879 1910  
Passcode: 963942

**Thursdays**  
6:00-7:30pm  
Meeting ID: 842 5337 5828  
Passcode: 568266

**With Rabbi Nelly!**

**MAH JONGG**



**Every Tuesday at Adath Israel**

**11:00am-1:30pm**  
and  
**12:30pm-3:00pm**

**All Levels Welcome!**

Please reach out to [community@adathisraelct.org](mailto:community@adathisraelct.org) for more info

**Phishing Awareness: Avoid Taking the Bait**



Every month or so it seems, scammers send out emails pretending to be from Rabbi Nelly or a member of the Board. Below are some tips on how to avoid getting snagged by one of these phishing expeditions.

Common warning signs of phishing include:

- Unfamiliar greeting or tone
- Unsolicited messages
- Grammar and spelling errors
- Sense of urgency
- Suspicious links or attachments
- Requests for personal information
- Inconsistencies in email addresses, links, etc.
- Unusual requests
- Alerts that you've won something

Please remember: **No one from Adath Israel will ever ask you for personal information or financial assistance via an email.** If you have *any* question, do not respond to the email. Contact the person it claims to be from via a trusted method. DO NOT use any email, website, or phone number included in the suspicious message. If it is spam, please report it to your email provider.

**Please join us for a**



**Bar Mitzvah**

**Cooper's Bar Mitzvah**

**February 14th**  
**9:30 am**

**Congregation Adath Israel**

# DAN NICHOLS

## IN CONCERT!

Made Possible  
By The Arthur &  
Edythe Director  
Family Fund



SATURDAY, MARCH 28  
8:00PM

MEMBERS \$18

NON-MEMBERS \$36

TO PURCHASE TICKETS, PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE OR CONTACT THE  
SYNAGOGUE OFFICE AT 860-346-4709 OR [OFFICE@ADATHISRAELCT.ORG](mailto:OFFICE@ADATHISRAELCT.ORG)

You can find Dan Nichols music on YouTube at: Dan Nichols & Eighteen, or scan this QR code to listen! →



## A Night Full of Light!

What a wonderful Chanukah Party we had this year! Thank you to everyone who joined us. If you weren't able to make it, here are some pictures from the evening.

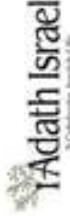




# february 2026

## shevat/adar

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
1 <b>Tu B'shevat L'chol Adat</b> 9 am: Minyan 9 am Religious School 10:30 am Mazel Tots	2 <b>March Kolot Deadline</b> 8 am: Minyan	3 8 am Minyan 11 am Mah Jongg 12:30 pm Mah Jongg 7 pm Al Anon & Alateen 7 pm Book Club	4 7 am Early Risers Minyan 10:30 am Torah Study w/ Rabbi Nelly, Zoom 4 pm Religious School	5 8 am Minyan 6 pm Torah Study w/ Rabbi Nelly, Zoom	6 8 am Minyan 7 pm Shabbat Evening Services *4:54 pm (*Candle Lighting Time for Middletown, CT)	7 9:30 am Shabbat Morning Services
14 shevat	Tu B'shevat 15 shevat	16 shevat	17 shevat	18 shevat	19 shevat	<i>Yitro</i> 20 shevat
8 9 am Minyan 9 am Religious School 10:30 am Mazel Tots 11 am Escape from Vienna: Holocaust Survivor Talk	9 8 am: Minyan Breakfast Bunch following services	10 8 am Minyan 11 am Mah Jongg 12:30 pm Mah Jongg 7 pm Al Anon & Alateen	11 8 am Express Minyan 10:30 am Torah Study w/ Rabbi Nelly, Zoom 4 pm Religious School 7 pm Board of Directors Meeting	12 8 am Minyan 6 pm Torah Study w/ Rabbi Nelly, Zoom	13 <b>Pray-Eat-Sing RSVP Deadline</b> 8 am Minyan 7 pm Shabbat Evening Services *5:03 pm	14 9:30 am Shabbat Morning Services Cooper Bruno called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah <i>Mishpalim Shabbat Shekalim</i> 27 shevat
21 shevat	22 shevat	23 shevat	24 shevat	25 shevat	25 shevat	
15 <b>No Religious School or Mazel Tots</b> 9 am: Minyan	16 <b>Office closed</b> 8 am: Minyan	17 8 am Minyan 11 am Mah Jongg 12:30 pm Mah Jongg 7 pm Al Anon & Alateen	18 <b>No Religious School</b> 8 am Minyan 10:30 am Torah Study w/ Rabbi Nelly, Zoom	19 8 am Minyan 6 pm Torah Study w/ Rabbi Nelly, Zoom	20 <b>Office closed</b> 8 am Minyan 6 pm Pray-Eat-Sing Shabbat Evening Services & Dinner *5:12 pm	21 9:30 am Shabbat Morning Services
28 shevat	Presidents Day 29 shevat	Rosh Chodesh 30 shevat	Rosh Chodesh 1 adar	2 adar	3 adar	Terumah 4 adar
22 9 am: Minyan 9 am Religious School 10:30 am Mazel Tots 12 pm Post B'Nei Mitzvah Class	23 8 am: Minyan	24 8 am Minyan 11 am Mah Jongg 12:30 pm Mah Jongg 7 pm Al Anon & Alateen	25 8 am Express Minyan 10:30 am Torah Study w/ Rabbi Nelly, Zoom 4 pm Religious School	26 8 am Minyan 6 pm Torah Study w/ Rabbi Nelly, Zoom	27 8 am Minyan 7 pm Shabbat Evening Services *5:20 pm	28 9:30 am Shabbat Morning Services <i>Tetzaveh Shabbat Zachor</i> 11 adar
5 adar	6 adar	7 adar	8 adar	9 adar	10 adar	



# March 2026

## Adar – Nisan 5786

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
12th of Adar 9am Minyan 9am Religious School 10:30am Mazel Tots <b>1:00pm Drag Purim!</b>	13th of Adar <b>5:02am Fast begins</b> <b>Talant Esther</b> 9am Minyan <b>6:30pm Adult Megillah Reading</b>	14th of Adar 8am Minyan 11am Mah Jongg 12:30pm Mah Jongg 7pm Al Anon & Alateen	15th of Adar 7am Early Risers Minyan 10:30am Torah Study with Rabbi Nelly, Zoom 4pm Religious School	16th of Adar 8am Minyan 6pm Torah Study with Rabbi Nelly, Zoom	17th of Adar 8am Minyan 7pm Shabbat Evening Services	18th of Adar 9:30am Shabbat Morning Services <b>Ki Sisa</b> <b>Shabbat Parah</b> <b>6:29pm Havdalah</b>
19th of Adar <b>8:30am Children's Megillah Reading &amp; Purim Carnival</b> 9am Minyan	20th of Adar 8am Minyan Breakfast Bunch following services <b>April Kolot Deadline</b>	21st of Adar 8am Minyan 11am Mah Jongg 12:30pm Mah Jongg 7pm Al Anon & Alateen	22nd of Adar 8am Express Minyan 10:30am Torah Study with Rabbi Nelly, Zoom 4pm Religious School 7pm Board of Directors Meeting	23rd of Adar 8am Express Minyan 10:30am Torah Study with Rabbi Nelly, Zoom 4pm Religious School	24th of Adar 8am Minyan 7pm Shabbat Evening Services Pray Eat Sing RSVP Deadline	25th of Adar 9:30am Shabbat L'chol Adat Morning Services 11:30am Tot Shabbat <b>Vayakhel-Pekudei</b> <b>Shabbat HaChodesh</b> <b>7:37pm Havdalah</b>
26th of Adar 9am Minyan 9am Religious School 10:30am Mazel Tots	27th of Adar 8am Minyan 11am Mah Jongg 12:30pm Mah Jongg 7pm Al Anon & Alateen 7pm Book Club	28th of Adar 8am Minyan 11am Mah Jongg 12:30pm Mah Jongg 7pm Al Anon & Alateen 7pm Book Club	29th of Adar 8am Express Minyan 10:30am Torah Study with Rabbi Nelly, Zoom 4pm Religious School	1st of Nisan 8am Minyan 6pm Torah Study with Rabbi Nelly, Zoom	2nd of Nisan 8am Minyan 6pm Pray Eat Sing Shabbat Evening Services & Dinner	3rd of Nisan 9:30am Shabbat Morning Services <b>Vayikra</b> <b>7:45pm Havdalah</b>
4th of Nisan 9am Minyan 9am Religious School 10:30am Mazel Tots 12pm Post B'nei Mitzvah Class	5th of Nisan 8am Minyan 9am Religious School 10:30am Mazel Tots 12pm Post B'nei Mitzvah Class	6th of Nisan 8am Minyan 11am Mah Jongg 12:30pm Mah Jongg 7pm Al Anon & Alateen	7th of Nisan 8am Express Minyan 10:30am Torah Study with Rabbi Nelly, Zoom 4pm Religious School	8th of Nisan 8am Minyan 6pm Torah Study with Rabbi Nelly, Zoom	9th of Nisan 8am Minyan 7pm Shabbat Evening Services	10th of Nisan 9:30am Shabbat Morning Services 8pm <b>Dan Nichols show!</b> <b>Tzav</b> <b>Shabbat HaGadol</b> <b>7:53pm Havdalah</b>
11th of Nisan 9am Minyan 9am Religious School 10:30am Mazel Tots	12th of Nisan 8am Minyan 9am Religious School 10:30am Mazel Tots	13th of Nisan 8am Minyan 11am Mah Jongg 12:30pm Mah Jongg 7pm Al Anon & Alateen				<b>Kitchen Kosher for Passover</b> <b>Kitchen Kosher for Passover</b>

Middletown, CT 06457 (elevation: 89 m) • Candle-lighting times 18 min before sunset

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*Celebrate Jewish Life*

P.O. Box 337  
Middletown, CT 06457

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Email: [office@adathisraelct.org](mailto:office@adathisraelct.org)

Website: [www.adathisraelct.org](http://www.adathisraelct.org)